

Interview Summary

Application No.
09/945,144

Applicant(s)
Raney et al.

Examiner
Clark F. Dexter

Group Art Unit
3724

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Mr. Warren Williams

(3) Mr. Tim Burns (Preco - V. P., General Counsel)

(2) Mr. Jim Gramling (Preco - Sr. V. P., Engineering)

(4) Mr. Clark Dexter

Date of Interview Apr 9, 2002

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☒ Personal [copy is given to 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No. If yes, brief description:

Claim(s) discussed: 1-5 and newly proposed claim 6

Identification of prior art discussed:

None

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:


Mr. Williams submitted a proposed amendment (attached in file) to obviate the outstanding rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. The proposed changes were discussed and Mr. Dexter stated that they appear to obviate the outstanding "112" rejections.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

i) ☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview (if box is checked).

Unless the paragraph above has been checked, THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


CLARK F. DEXTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3724

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: 09/945144

RANEY, Charles C. et al.

Serial No. :

Filed:

WEB OR SHEET-FED APPARATUS
HAVING HIGH-SPEED MECHANISM
FOR SIMULTANEOUS X, Y AND θ
REGISTRATION

Docket No. 25520-CNT4

Group Art Unit No.

Examiner: Clark F. Dexter

Attach to
paper #3

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the office action dated February 12, 2002, amendment and reconsideration of the above application is requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 - 5 as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for processing segments of a continuous flexible web comprising:

a processing station including web processing components for carrying out an operation

upon a segment of the web after the segment is initially fed to the processing station;

a web feeder assembly for successively feeding a stretch of the web while under tension to

said processing station for initial placement of said at least one segment of the web

at the station, said assembly being operable to intermittently release tension on the

stretch of the web while said at least one segment thereof is at the processing station;

a holder at the processing station for holding each successive segment of the web after the segment is positioned in said initial placement thereof at the processing station and during at least a part of the time tension is released on the stretch of the web, said holder being movable while continuing to hold said at least one segment of the web at the processing station to cause the held segment to move relative to and while remaining a part of adjacent portions of the web during release of tension on said stretch of the web;

a mechanism operably coupled to said holder for selectively moving the holder along the X axis direction of feed of the stretch of the web to the processing station, in a Y axis direction transverse of the X axis direction of feed of said stretch of the web, and about a θ axis of rotation of the holder perpendicular to said X and Y axis directions while the said at least one segment of the web is held by the holder at said processing station,

said mechanism including adjustment control structure operably connected to the holder for shifting the holder in motion directions selected from the group consisting of motion along said X axis, motion along said Y axis, rotation about said θ axis, and simultaneous combinations thereof as required to obtain accurate alignment of the segment of the web with the processing components at said processing station while tension on the stretch of the web is released.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, each of said segments carrying at least one position-identifying indicium, positioning means including a reference assembly providing

reference data corresponding to the accurate position of each web segment within the station, and means for comparing the location of said segment indicium with said reference data, said comparing means operably coupled with said mechanism.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, said reference assembly comprising at least one reference indicium within said station.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, there being a pair of spaced reference indicia within said station.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, said comparing means including a computer controller operably coupled with said reference assembly and said mechanism.

Add the following claim:

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said holder includes a shiftable vacuum plate to hold the segment of the web at the web processing station; means for sequentially applying vacuum to the plate to successively hold segments of the web at the processing station, said mechanism being operable to move the vacuum plate to selectively adjust the position of the plate in said X axis direction, said Y axis direction and said θ axis direction.

REMARKS:

This Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action of February 12, 2002.

Title

The Examiner objected to the title as including the word "Method", but this continuation application as filed did not include the word method; as reflected by the filing receipt of October 10, 2001, a copy of which is attached.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 - 5 have been amended to clarify the terminology objected to in each instance set out in the Examiner's Action.

Claim 1

"mechanism" in line 8 of claim 1 has been replaced should have read "assembly" and the correction has been made.

In line 19, "a" has been inserted before "mechanism" as suggested by the Examiner.

The term "axis" has been inserted between "X" and "direction" in line 21, between "Y" and "direction" and "X" and "direction" in line 22 to provide full antecedent support for the reference to said X axis, said Y axis and said θ axis in lines 27 and 28.

Claim 2

The term "said" preceding "positioning means" in line 2 of claim 2 has been deleted. "Motive means" has been replaced with "mechanism" in line 6.

Claims 3, 4 and 5

The dependency of claims 3, 4 and 5 has been corrected by amendments in which claim 3 has been made dependent from claim 2, claim 4 dependent from claim 3 and claim 5 dependent from claim 2. In lines 15 and 16 of claim 5, the term "motive means" has been replaced with "mechanism".

Claim 6

Newly added claim 6, dependent from claim 1 is definite in all respects and is patentable for the same reasons that the combination of claim 1 distinguishes over the prior art, and especially the Kaule '572 patent.

Summary

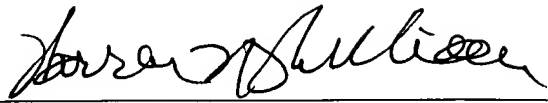
It is submitted that the amendments made to claims 1 - 5 by this response to the February 12, 2002 Office Action brings all of the claims into full compliance with the requirements of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned: **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Warren N. Williams, Reg. No. 19,156
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
816/474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.


1. (Amended) Apparatus for processing segments of a continuous flexible web comprising:

a processing station including web processing components for carrying out an operation upon a segment of the web after the segment is initially fed to the processing station;

a web feeder assembly for successively feeding a stretch of the web while under tension to said processing station for initial placement of said at least one segment of the web at the station, said [mechanism] assembly being operable to intermittently release tension on the stretch of the web while said at least one segment thereof is at the processing station;

a holder at the processing station for holding each successive segment of the web after the segment is positioned in said initial placement thereof at the processing station and during at least a part of the time tension is released on the stretch of the web,

said holder being [shiftable] movable while continuing to hold said at least one segment of the web at the processing station to [allow] cause the held segment to [shift] move relative to and while remaining a part of adjacent portions of the web [on each side thereof] during release of tension on said stretch of the web;

a mechanism operably coupled to said holder for selectively [shifting] moving the holder [in] along [^]the X axis direction of feed of the stretch of the web to the processing station, 
[^]in a Y axis direction transverse of the X axis direction of feed of said stretch of the web, and about a θ axis of rotation of the holder perpendicular to [the] said X and Y

axis directions[,] while the said at least one segment of the web is held by the holder at said processing station.

said mechanism including adjustment control structure operably connected to the holder for shifting the holder in motion directions selected from the group consisting of motion along said X axis, motion along said Y axis; rotation about said θ axis, and simultaneous combinations thereof as required to obtain accurate alignment of the segment of the web with the processing components at said processing station while tension on the stretch of the web is released.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, each of said segments carrying at least one position-identifying indicium, [said] positioning means including a reference assembly providing reference data corresponding to the accurate position of each web segment within the station, and means for comparing the location of said segment indicium with said reference data, said comparing means operably coupled with said [motive means] mechanism.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [1] 2, said reference assembly comprising at least one reference indicium within said station.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [1] 3, there being a pair of spaced reference indicia within said station.

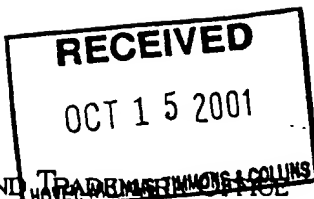
5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [1] 2, said comparing means including a computer controller operably coupled with said reference assembly and said [motive means] mechanism.

Add the following claims:

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said holder includes a shiftable vacuum plate to hold the segment of the web at the web processing station, means for sequentially applying vacuum to the plate to successively hold segments of the web at the processing station, said mechanism being operable to move the vacuum plate to selectively adjust the position of the plate in said X axis direction, said Y axis direction and said θ axis direction.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

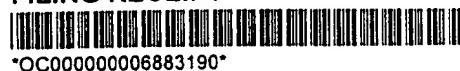


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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/945,144	09/05/2001	3724	355	25520-CNT4	11	5	1

CONFIRMATION NO. 4231

FILING RECEIPT



OC000000006883190

HOVEY, WILLIAMS, TIMMONS & COLLINS
Suite 400
2405 Grand
Kansas City, MO 64108

Date Mailed: 10/10/2001

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Charles C. Raney, Lenexa, KS;
Hongli Du, Olathe, KS;
John T. Pierson JR., Shawnee Mission, KS;

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

THIS APPLICATION IS A CON OF 08/948,011 10/09/1997
WHICH IS A CON OF 08/825,368 03/28/1997 ABN

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 10/05/2001

Projected Publication Date: 01/17/2002

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

ALECTO

OCT 15 2001

ENTERED BY sgm

Title

Web or sheet-fed apparatus having high-speed mechanism for simultaneous X, Y and theta registration

Preliminary Class

083

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

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